

Welcome to the public meeting
for the Raystown Lake Master
Plan Revision

April 26, 2018

Huntingdon, PA

Exits
&
Restrooms

Tonight's Agenda

- 6:10 Introduction to Raystown Lake Nick Krupa
- 6:20 Master Plan Revision Process Avis Kennedy
- 6:30 Move to your Classrooms
- 6:45 Small Group Discussions
Your room assignment
Your facilitator
- 8:15 Return to the auditorium
- 8:30 Questions answered from the Question Box
- 9:00 Meeting ends

Meeting Purpose – We'd like to learn from you:

- The RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES (e.g. camping, hiking trails, disc golf, etc.) you'd like to see
- The ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP OPPORTUNITIES (e.g. hunting and fishing opportunities, pollinator plots, land management initiatives) you'd like to see
- The major CONCERNS you have about Raystown Lake's future
- The aspects you VALUE at Raystown Lake

RAYSTOWN LAKE PROJECT



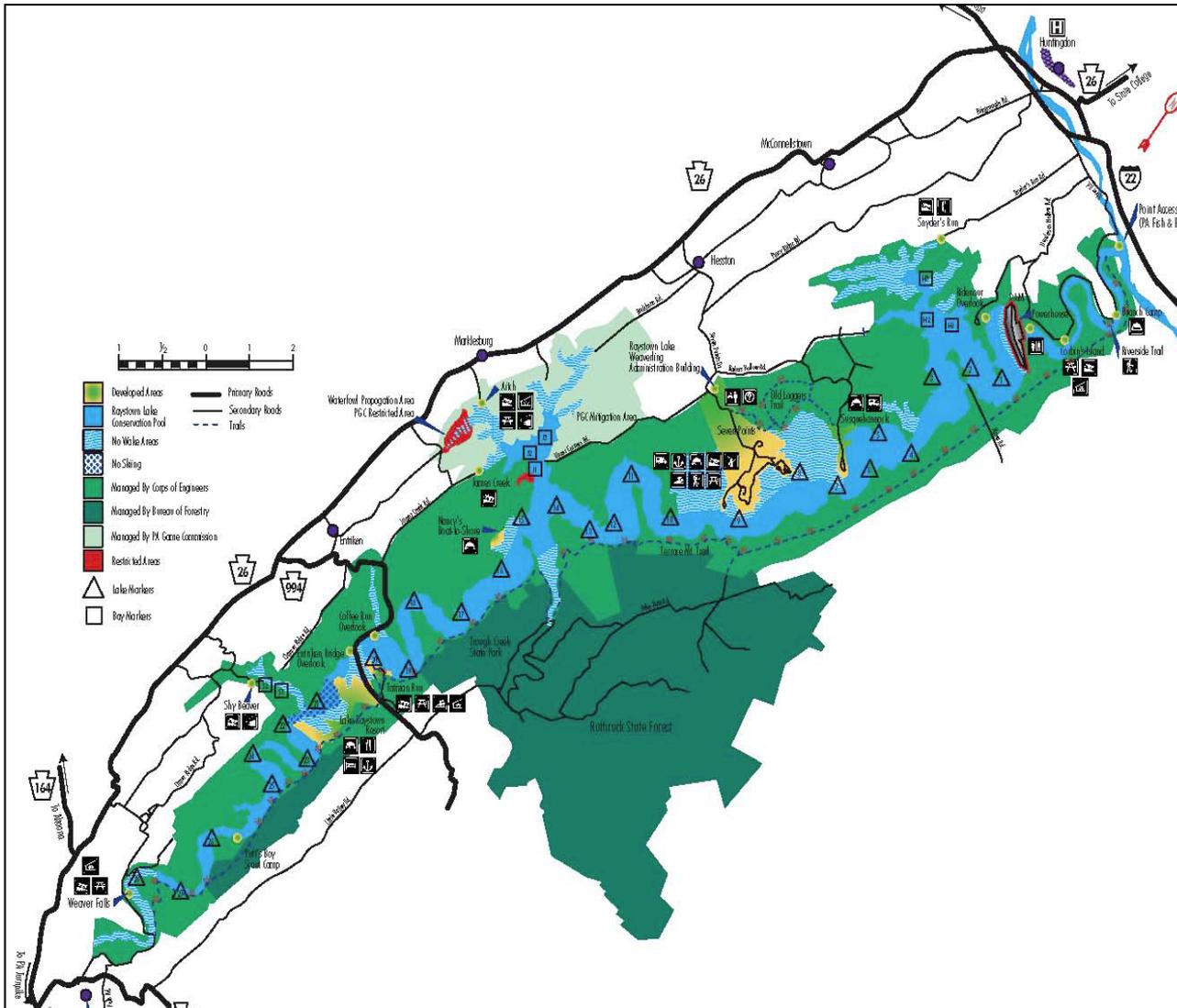
"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the author(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."



**US Army Corps
of Engineers.**



PROJECT INFORMATION



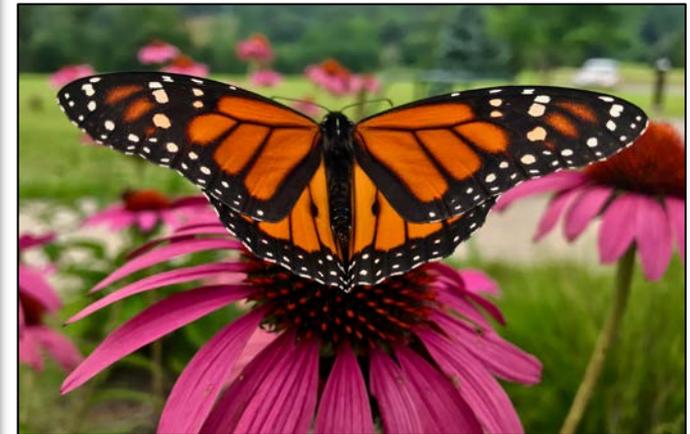
- Project size = ~**29,000 acres**
 - 8,300 acres of water
 - 21,000 acres of land
 - Largest lake in PA.
- Project = 28 miles long with **118 miles** of shoreline (*no shoreline development*).



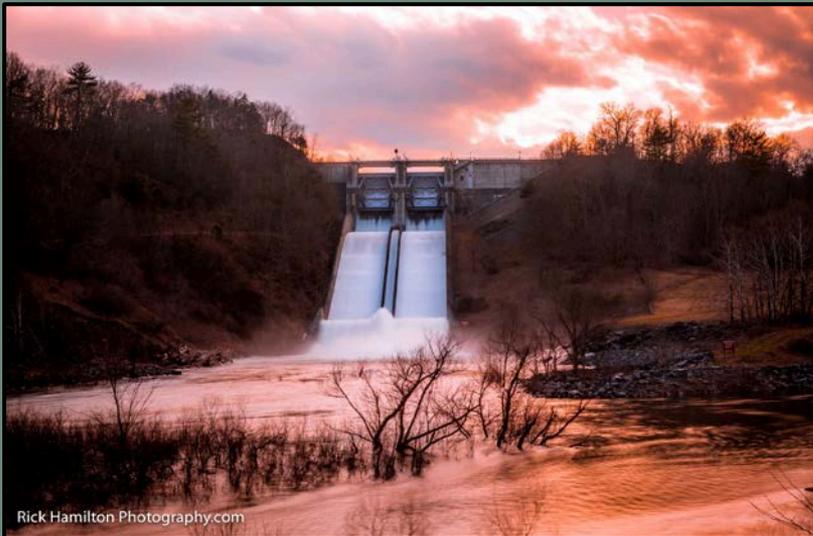
PROJECT INFORMATION

Operation of Raystown Lake Project Provides

- Flood Protection
- General Recreation
- Enhancement of Downstream Fisheries (through maintenance of minimum flows + water quality)
- Wildlife Mitigation
- Hydropower



FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT



- Built for \$76 M.
- RLP has prevented ~ \$284.5 M in damages.

HYDROPOWER

Hydro power added to RLP in 1988.

- 21 MW generating facility providing power to 8,500 homes
- Low Flow Augmentation



RECREATION PROGRAM

1.2 – 1.5 million visitors annually

We receive **80%** of those visitors from Memorial Day – Labor Day (3.5 months).

Located within **175 miles** of Pittsburgh, Harrisburg, Washington DC, and Baltimore.

Operate at capacity (beaches, boat launches, day use, and concession facilities) nearly every weekend.



RECREATION PROGRAM

- 8 boat launches
- 2 swim beaches
- 8 picnic shelters
- 3 campgrounds



ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM

Maintain and enhance the quality of the existing resources through an active management program designed to optimize the natural resource potential.

3 MAJOR COMPONENTS:

- Wildlife Management
- Forest and Habitat Management
- Fisheries Management



RAYTOWN LAKE TRAILS

- Allegrippis Trails
- Mountain Bike Skills Park
- Greenside Pathway
- Terrace Mountain Trail



File Name



US Army Corps
of Engineers.

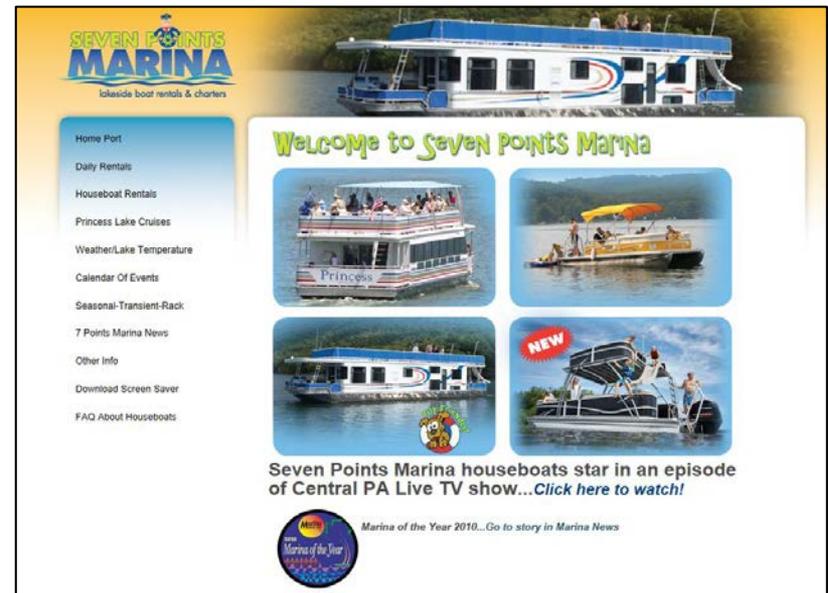




CONCESSION MANAGEMENT

2 major concessions

- Lake Raystown Resort and Seven Points Marina (combined gross revenues in excess of \$9 mil annually)
- Branch Camp
- Lighthouse Concession





File Name



US Army Corps
of Engineers.



Raystown Lake Master Plan Revision

Public Meeting
April 25 & 26, 2018

How does the revision process
work?



What is a Master Plan?

The Master Plan is the strategic land use management document that guides the comprehensive management and development of all project recreational, natural and cultural resources throughout the life of the water resource development project.



Why are we revising Raystown's Plan now?

- Corps project master plans are prepared for a lifespan of 15-25 years.
- Raystown's current Master Plan was approved in 1994, making it 24 years old



WIIN Act 2016

- SEC. 1309. HUNTINGDON COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA

(a) In General.—The Secretary shall—

(1) prioritize the updating of the master plan for the Juniata River and tributaries project, Huntingdon County, Pennsylvania, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 . . .

(2) ensure that alternatives for additional recreation access and development at the project are fully assessed, evaluated, and incorporated as a part of the update.

(b) Participation.--The update referred to in subsection (a) shall be done in coordination with all appropriate Federal agencies, elected officials, and members of the public.

(c) Inventory.--In carrying out the update under subsection (a), the Secretary shall include an inventory of those lands that are not necessary to carry out the authorized purposes of the project



Not on the table!

- Private exclusive use, such as:
 - Private docks
 - Private paths or roads

These uses **are not permitted** at any Corps lake where they did not exist as of December 1974



Providing Quality Outdoor Recreation

Corps

- Camping
- Boat Launching
- Swimming
- Picnicking
- Opportunities for hunting & fishing
- Hiking/walking/sightseeing

Concessionaires & Partners

- Moorage
- Dry storage
- Food/restaurants
- Lodging & resort facilities
- Camping
- Specialized facilities like bike trails, youth camps, state & local parks



Concessionaires:

- Pay rent on a graduated scale, up to 4.6% of gross receipts
- Comply with lease conditions on environmental and other requirements
- Over \$350,000 annually at Raystown
- 75% of rent paid returns to the counties



What's in a Project Master Plan?

Project setting
and influencing
factors

Resource goals
and objectives

Land allocation
and
classification

Resource plans for
each classification
(includes needs and
objectives for each
recreation area)

Special Topics

Agency and
Public
Coordination

Mapping



Master Plan Land Classifications

1. Project
Operations



2. High Density
Recreation



3. Mitigation



Master Plan Land Classifications

4. Environmentally Sensitive Areas



Master Plan Land Classifications

5. Multiple Resource Management Lands

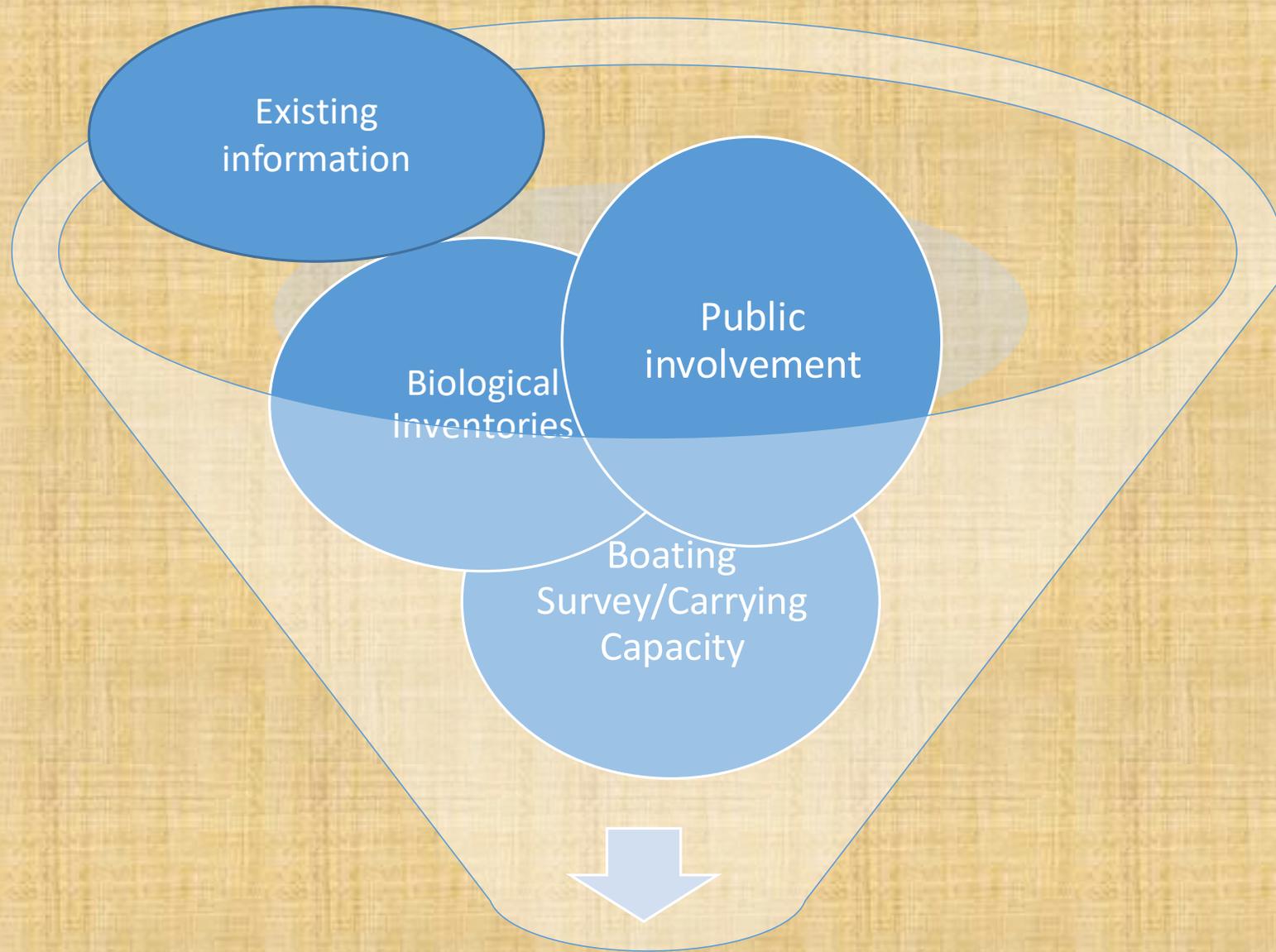
- a. Low Density Recreation
- b. Wildlife Management
- c. Vegetative Management
- d. Future or Inactive Recreation



Master Plan Water Surface Classifications

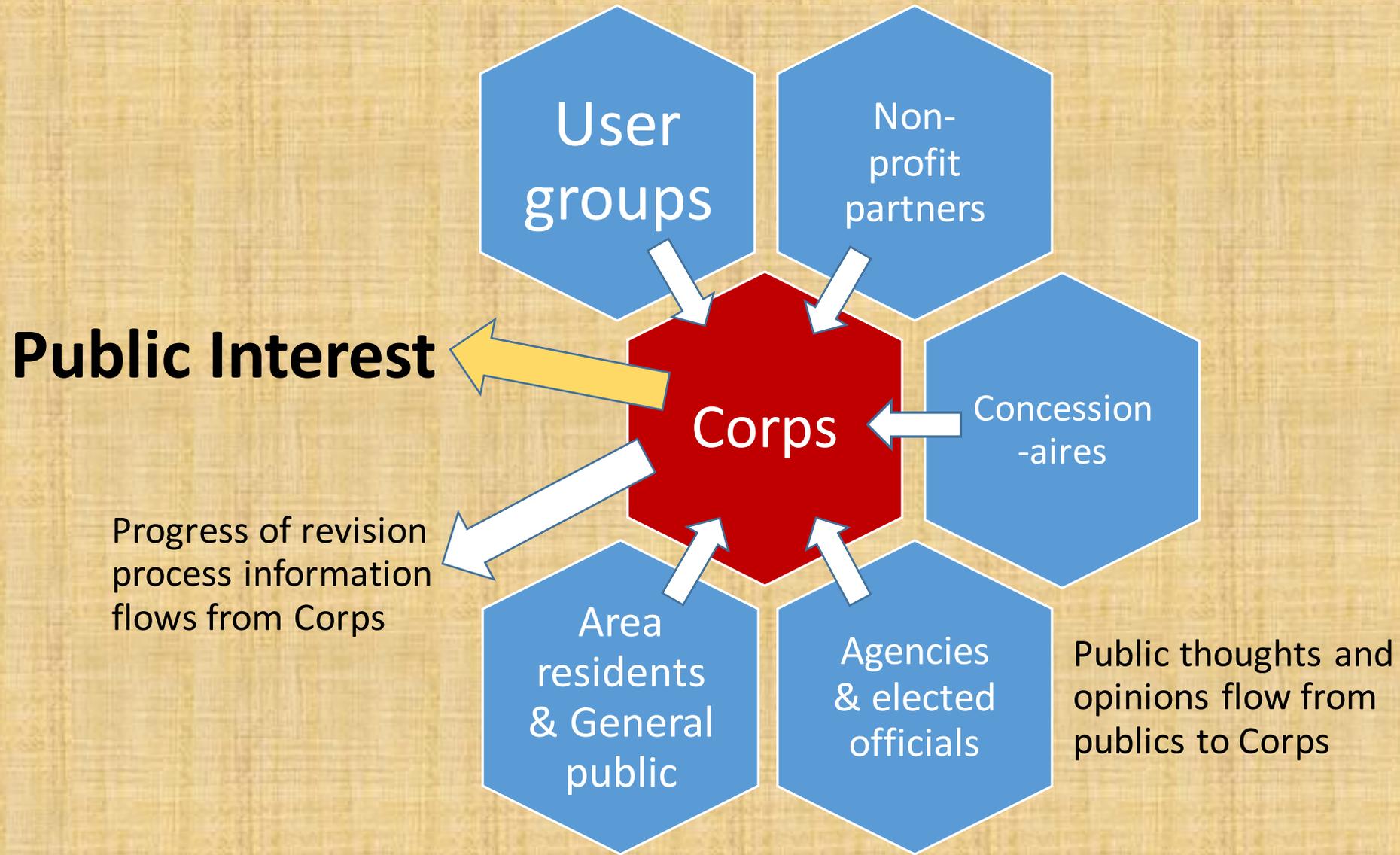
1. Restricted
2. Designated No-Wake
3. Fish and Wildlife Sanctuary
4. Open Recreation





Information to the team





Is “public interest” a vote?

- No.
- The revised plan will shape the future of Raystown in a manner responsive to expressed public desires, consistent with good stewardship and applicable guidance
- The revised plan will reflect the greatest public interest, balancing conservation of natural resources with high-quality public outdoor recreation meeting the needs created by the project itself



National Environmental Policy Act Overview – EA

- Social and economic conditions
- Environmental justice
- Public health and safety
- Surface and groundwater resources
- Air quality
- Cultural resources
- Threatened, endangered, and candidate species
- Other wildlife
- Vegetation and invasive species
- Recreation
- Soils
- Visual resources
- Geology and geological resources
- Wetlands
- Land use
- Roads and utilities



Terrace Mountain/Hawn's Bridge Recreation Area

The Terrace Mountain proposal was formally rejected by the Baltimore District, primarily because it was inconsistent with the current Master Plan.

The Hawn's Bridge area is currently classified as Multiple Resource Management. Development at the Hawn's Bridge area is specifically excluded in the 1994 plan.



If Hawn's Bridge is reclassified, will the Terrace Mountain proposal automatically be approved?

NO! There would be a number of steps that would have to occur before the proposal could be approved.

- Corps would have to determine additional recreation facilities are needed

- Site would be subject to additional biological and cultural resources reviews

- Site would be advertised in a competitive process as a concession lease for public recreational development

- Best proposal would be selected

- If/when a lease is awarded, another NEPA process would occur, based on the specifics of the proposal



The Plan is so much more than one area!

- What are your ideas for meeting the recreational needs created by the lake itself?
- What are your ideas for improving the stewardship of natural and cultural resources at Raystown?



How can you be part of the process?

- Attend and participate in public meetings
- A second round of public meetings is planned for August 2018.
- Submit comments on the Raystown Lake website
- Submit your comments on the forms
- Include your e-mail address on the form to receive notifications
- Check your local newspapers



Submit your comments on our Master Plan webpage

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the address bar displaying <http://www.nab.usace.army.mil/raystown-master-plan-revision>. The page title is "Raystown Lake Master Plan Revision Schedule". Below the title, a message states: "A full schedule of project milestones will be posted here soon." A prominent green button labeled "Submit An Official Comment" is centered on the page. Below this button is a form with the following fields:

- Recipient:** A dropdown menu with the text "Choose a Recipient".
- Your Name:** A text input field.
- Your Email Address:** A text input field.
- Subject:** A text input field.
- Message:** A large text area for the comment.
- Contact Me:** A response is requested.

The browser's taskbar at the bottom shows the Windows logo, "Search Windows", and several application icons. The system tray on the right indicates the time is 11:41 AM on 2/7/2016.



After information is gathered

- Plan is drafted, including land and water classifications
- NEPA proceeds in parallel
- Draft is presented to the public for review, likely dates August-September 2019
- Public and agency comments are incorporated
- Internal review
- If Finding of No Significant Impact is reached, FONSI is signed
- Approval by Commander, Baltimore District



How long will it take?

- Information gathering through October 2018
- Followed by plan preparation, internal review, public & agency review of NEPA & plan, incorporation of comments
- Projected completion early 2020



Tonight's Agenda

- 6:10 Introduction to Raystown Lake Nick Krupa
- 6:20 Master Plan Revision Process Avis Kennedy
- 6:30 Move to your Classrooms**
- 6:45 Small Group Discussions**
- Your room assignment**
- Your facilitator**
- 8:20 Wrap Up Discussions, Head back to auditorium**
- 8:30 Questions answered from the Question Boxes**
- 9:00 Meeting ends

Guidelines

- Be respectful of others
- Allow time for others to talk
- Limit sidebar conversations
- Please no booing or applauding
- Start with the headline
- Add something new
- Generate ideas, not evaluate them